Sri Parthasarathy Temple, Guruvayur, Kerala

Info is given under following headings:

Location, address, phone, how to get there. Greatness of this temple. Legends and history. Architecture of temple deities. Sub-deities daily rituals and poojas and their charges ..special poojas and rituals and their charges.. festivals, facilities for devotees...like accommodation etc. Donation info and bank acct number etc. Nearby temples. Other tourist attractions. Nearby budget hotels. Any other info...etc

*****

Ref: GrokAI

Sri Parthasarathy Temple (also known as Sree Parthasarathy Temple or Parthasarthy Temple) is a serene Hindu temple in Guruvayur, Thrissur District, Kerala.
It is dedicated to Lord Krishna in the form of Parthasarathy (the divine charioteer of Arjuna from the Mahabharata).
It is much less crowded than the main Guruvayur Sri Krishna Temple and is visited by many devotees who come to Guruvayur.

Location, Address, Phone, How to Get There

Address: Near Venkatachalapathy Temple / Kuppaayil, Railway Station Road, Guruvayur, Thrissur District, Kerala 680101.
Phone: +91-487-2557699 or +91-94470 57599 (contact numbers as per available sources; confirm on arrival as they may change).
Location Highlights: It lies about 0.5 km from Guruvayur Railway Station and roughly 2 km (or about 1 km as per some accounts) from the famous Guruvayur Sri Krishna Temple (East Nada side). It is very convenient for pilgrims arriving by train.

How to Reach:

By Rail: Guruvayur Railway Station is the closest (walkable distance, ~0.5 km).

By Air: Cochin International Airport (about 72-80 km away); taxis or buses available.

By Road: Well-connected by buses and taxis from Thrissur (26 km), Kochi, and other Kerala towns. Guruvayur has a bus stand nearby.
Local auto-rickshaws or taxis easily reach the temple from the railway station or main Guruvayur Temple.

Greatness of This Temple

The temple is revered for its connection to Lord Krishna as the divine guide who delivered the Bhagavad Gita.
It offers a peaceful atmosphere compared to the bustling main Guruvayur Temple.
Devotees believe the presiding deity carries special blessings linked to the Mahabharata era and is auspicious for guidance, protection, and spiritual wisdom.
Many pilgrims combine a visit here with the main Guruvayurappan Temple.

Legends and History

According to legend, the idol of Lord Parthasarathy is said to be the same one worshipped by Queen Kunti (mother of the Pandavas) in Indraprastha.

Sri Adi Shankaracharya is believed to have discovered or brought the deity (found in the Ganga river under guidance from Sage Narada) and consecrated it here.

The temple reportedly fell into oblivion after Tipu Sultan's invasion.

In 1971, a roof collapse led to the rediscovery of the idol, followed by renovation and reinstallation.

It originally belonged to the Nenmini mana and was later handed over to the Guruvayur Devaswom on 10 March 1989.

There is also a link to the Saptarishis and Panchaveeras worship in some accounts.
A sub-shrine remembers Adi Shankaracharya for his role in bringing the deity.

Architecture of the Temple

The temple follows traditional Kerala-style architecture, with typical sloping roofs, laterite stone elements, and a sanctum sanctorum (Sreekovil).
It features a chariot-like formation symbolizing Krishna as charioteer.
The temple is east-facing.
It includes a Madapalli (temple kitchen) and has undergone renovation after the 1971 incident.
It is noted for its ancient yet serene and beautiful structure.

Deities and Sub-Deities

Presiding Deity: Lord Vishnu/Krishna worshipped as Sri Parthasarathy (charioteer form, often depicted holding the conch Panchajanya, symbolizing his role in the Mahabharata without wielding weapons).

Sub-Deities: Separate shrine for Adi Shankaracharya. Some mentions of a sub-shrine or association with Lord Krishna and Arjuna. The temple may have other auxiliary deities typical in Kerala Vaishnava temples, but the focus is primarily on Parthasarathy.

Daily Rituals, Poojas and Their Charges

Daily rituals are similar to those at the main Guruvayur Temple and include:

- Gho Pooja (cow worship) – devotees can participate for Rs. 100.
- Usha Pooja, Ucha Pooja, Athazha Pooja.
- Seeveli (procession, 3 times a day), Deeparadhana, etc.

Timings (approximate; confirm locally as they can vary slightly): 4:30 AM – 12:30 PM and 4:30 PM – 8:30 PM (some sources mention from ~4 AM). The temple follows traditional Kerala temple pooja schedules with Nirmalya, Abhishekam, Nivedyam, etc.

No detailed public list of all charges for every pooja is widely available online (unlike the main Guruvayur Temple). Poojas and vazhipadu (offerings) are typically booked or performed on-site.
Contact the temple directly for current rates. There is a temple kitchen (Madapalli).

Special Poojas, Rituals and Their Charges

Specific special pooja charges are not prominently listed online for this smaller temple.

Common offerings may include abhishekam, various nivedyams, and special processions.

On Ekadasi, there is a notable connection: a procession with elephants and Pancha Vadyam comes from the Guruvayur Temple to Parthasarathy Temple, followed by a decorated chariot procession back, completing a parikrama of the tank.

Contact the temple office for details on special rituals and charges.

Festivals

- Janmashtami (Krishna's birthday) – celebrated with special fervor.
- Kumbham Utsavam.
- Ekadasi Festival – significant procession and chariot event linking to the main Guruvayur Temple.
- Other festivals aligned with Vaishnava traditions.

Facilities for Devotees (Accommodation, etc.)

The temple itself does not appear to have large-scale on-site accommodation like the main Guruvayur Devaswom facilities.
Devotees usually stay in nearby hotels or Guruvayur Devaswom guest houses (e.g., Sreevalsam).

Basic facilities: Temple kitchen for prasadam in some form; serene environment for prayer.
For detailed accommodation, pilgrims often use options near the main temple or railway station.

Donation Info and Bank Account

No specific public bank account details or online donation links were found in readily available sources for this temple (it is managed under or associated with Guruvayur Devaswom in some capacity since 1989).
Donations or vazhipadu are typically made directly at the temple counter.
For official contributions, contact the temple phone numbers or visit in person. The main Guruvayur Devaswom has its own official website and helplines for larger queries.

Nearby Temples

- Guruvayur Sri Krishna Temple (main temple, ~1-2 km) – the most famous, dedicated to Guruvayurappan (baby Krishna form).
- Mammiyoor Mahadeva Temple (Shiva temple, often visited together with Guruvayur).
- Venkatachalapathy Temple (nearby, as the Parthasarathy Temple is located near it).
- Other small temples in Guruvayur town.

Other Tourist Attractions

Guruvayur is primarily a pilgrimage town. Nearby attractions include:

- Punnathur Kotta (elephant sanctuary, where Guruvayur Temple elephants are kept).
- Local beaches or backwaters if extending the trip (e.g., towards Chavakkad).
- Thrissur city (26 km) for Vadakkunnathan Temple and cultural sites.

Nearby Budget Hotels

- Options near the temple/railway station area (many are budget-friendly for pilgrims):
- Hotel Pankaj Residency (opposite railway station).
- KTDC Nandanam.
- **Other budget stays**: Lilac Hotel Guruvayur, Devaragam Hotel, Sreepathi Indraprastha, or similar guesthouses around the station and East Nada.

Many hotels are within walking distance or short auto ride. Check Booking.com, MakeMyTrip, or local inquiries for current rates and availability.

Any Other Info

Dress code: Traditional attire preferred (dhoti/mund for men, saree/salwar for women) – similar to other Kerala temples.

The temple is described as serene, beautiful, and less crowded, making it ideal for peaceful darshan.

No official dedicated website was identified; information is scattered across travel portals.

Always verify timings, pooja details, and charges directly with the temple upon arrival, as they can be subject to change.

It is a good add-on visit for anyone coming to Guruvayur for the main temple.

For the most accurate and up-to-date information (especially pooja charges, timings, or bookings), please call the temple directly or visit the Guruvayur Devaswom office.

*****

Ref: Google Gemini

Introduction: The Charioteer of Guruvayur

The Sri Parthasarathi Temple stands as a profound testament to the multifaceted nature of Lord Krishna. While the world-renowned Sree Krishna Temple nearby celebrates the deity as the playful Child of Gokulam (*Guruvayurappan*), the Parthasarathi Temple honors Him as the Divine Guide and Charioteer (*Sutha*). Located just a stone's throw from the Guruvayur railway station, this ancient shrine serves as a spiritual bridge between the peaceful devotion of the *Bhagavata Purana* and the philosophical depth of the *Bhagavad Gita*. Its unique "Gajaprishta" (elephant-back) architecture, designed to resemble a celestial chariot, offers a visual narrative of the Kurukshetra battlefield, inviting pilgrims and historians alike to contemplate the eternal dialogue between Man and the Divine.

The **Sri Parthasarathi Temple** in Guruvayur is a significant spiritual landmark, often visited alongside the main Sree Krishna Temple. Below is the detailed information you requested, organized for your research records.

Location and Access

- **Address:** Railway Station Road, Kuppaayil, Guruvayur, Thrissur District, Kerala - 680101.
- **Phone:** +91 487 255 6335 / 255 6347 (Guruvayur Devaswom Office).
- **How to Get There:**
    - **By Train:** Located just **0.5 km** from the Guruvayur Railway Station (easy walking distance or a short auto-ride).
    - **By Air:** Cochin International Airport (COK) is approximately **80 km** away.
    - **By Bus:** The temple is about **1 km** from the Guruvayur KSRTC Bus Stand.

Greatness and Significance

This temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna in his role as **Parthasarathi** (the charioteer of Arjuna). It is considered one of the oldest shrines in the region. Its spiritual greatness is amplified by the belief that the presiding deity was installed by **Adi Sankaracharya**. It is a major stop for pilgrims performing the "Geethopadesam" day rituals.

Legends and History

The temple is inextricably linked to the **Mahabharata**. Legend states that the idol depicts the majestic form of Lord Vishnu as revealed to Krishna's parents, Vasudeva and Devaki, at his birth, but worshipped here specifically as the guide of Arjuna. Historically, the temple fell into ruins over centuries and was later reconstructed. The "Chariot" design of the sanctum commemorates the scene of the Bhagavad Gita being preached on the battlefield of Kurukshetra.

Architecture and Deities

- **Architecture:** Built in the classical **Kerala style**, the temple is famous for its **Gajaprishta** (elephant-back) shape and a sanctum sanctorum designed to look like a **chariot** pulled by horses. It features exquisite wooden carvings and vibrant mural paintings on the outer walls.
- **Presiding Deity:** Lord Parthasarathi, seen in a standing posture with four arms, holding the **Sudarchana Chakra** and a **Lotus**.
- **Sub-deities:** Shrines for **Lord Ganesha**, **Lord Ayyappa**, **Adi Sankaracharya**, and a unique joint shrine for **Krishna and Arjuna**.

Daily Rituals and Poojas (Approximate Charges)

The temple follows a strict ritualistic schedule. Common offerings include:

Offering	Charges (INR)
Gho Pooja (Cow worship)	₹250
Palpayasam (1 Litre)	₹140
Neypayasam (Ghee pudding)	₹200
Archana (Ashtotharam)	₹4
Udayasthamana Pooja	Subject to booking
Thulabharam	Varies by weight/item

Note: Rituals generally begin at **4:30 AM** with the Gho Pooja and conclude by **8:30 PM**.

Festivals

- **Guruvayur Ekadasi:** The most prominent festival (Nov–Dec), featuring a grand elephant procession from the main Guruvayur Temple to the Parthasarathi Temple.
- **Ashtami Rohini:** Lord Krishna's birthday (August–September).
- **Kuchela Dinam:** Observed in the month of Dhanu (December).
- **Utsavam:** The 10-day annual festival (Feb–March) involving the *Arattu* (holy bath) ceremony.

Facilities and Accommodation

- **Facilities:** Free **Annadanam** (meals) is provided by the Devaswom at the Annalakshmi Hall. There are also lockers and footwear counters available nearby.
- **Accommodation:**
    - **Devaswom Guest Houses:** *Sreevalsam*, *Panchajanyam*, and *Kousthubham* offer budget to mid-range rooms (Contact: 0487-2556535).
    - **Budget Hotels:** *Hotel Pankaj Residency*, *Hotel Vishnu Inn*, and *Seethas Regency* are nearby options with rates starting from ₹1,000–₹2,000.

Donation Information

Donations are managed by the **Guruvayur Devaswom Board**.

- **Bank:** State Bank of India, Guruvayur Branch.
- **Account Name:** Administrator, Guruvayur Devaswom.
- **Online:** Official portal at guruvayurdevaswom.nic.in.

Nearby Attractions

- **Guruvayur Sree Krishna Temple:** The main pilgrimage center (1 km).
- **Mammiyur Mahadeva Temple:** Dedicated to Lord Shiva (1.2 km).
- ***Punnathurkotta Elephant Palace: Home to over 50 elephants (3 km).*
- **Chavakkad Beach:** A scenic beach for evening relaxation (5 km).

***

More info:

Here is the deeper information on the legends, architecture, and rituals for the **Sri Parthasarathi Temple**, Guruvayur, to further assist with your research documentation.

Legends and History

The temple is steeped in antiquity, with several layers of sacred history:

- **The Sankaracharya Connection:** It is believed that **Adi Sankaracharya** (8th Century) had a divine vision of Lord Krishna here. Finding the temple in a state of neglect, he re-consecrated the deity. To this day, the temple honors him with a separate shrine within the complex.
- **The Pandava Heritage:** Local lore suggests the original idol was worshipped by **Kunti Devi** (mother of the Pandavas). During the era of the Mahabharata, the idol was reportedly immersed in the Ganges and was later recovered and brought to this location.
- **Reconstruction:** After centuries of being a "forgotten" shrine covered in shrubs, the local community and the Guruvayur Devaswom undertook a major revitalization in the mid-20th century. The re-consecration of the new idol took place in **1974**, followed by the installation of the *Dhwaja Stambham* (flag staff) in 2003.

Architectural Detail

The temple is a masterpiece of **Kerala Vastu Vidya**, with features distinct from the main Sree Krishna Temple:

- **The Chariot Sanctum:** The most unique feature is the *Sree Kovil* (sanctum), built in the **Gajaprishta** style (shaped like the back of an elephant). The entire base is carved to resemble a massive **chariot** with stone wheels and horses, symbolizing the Lord as the driver of Arjuna's chariot.
- **The Murals:** The outer walls of the sanctum are adorned with 17th-century style murals and wood carvings depicting scenes from the *Bhagavad Gita* and the *Mahabharata*.
- **The Layout:** Facing **East**, it includes a *Nalambalam* (cloistered hall) and a *Deepastambham* (pillar of lights). Unlike many crowded temples, the spacious layout here is specifically designed for quiet meditation.

Daily Rituals and Poojas

The daily schedule follows the orthodox traditions established by Sankaracharya.

Time	Ritual Name	Description
4:30 AM	Gho Pooja	Worship of the sacred cow to begin the day.
5:00 AM	Nirmalyam	First darshan of the deity in the previous day's flower decor.
7:00 AM	Palabhishekam	Ritual bathing of the idol with milk.
11:30 AM	Ucha Pooja	The primary midday pooja and offering of 'Nivedyam'.
6:30 PM	Deeparadhana	The grand lighting of lamps (a spectacular visual).
7:45 PM	Athazha Pooja	Night pooja before the deity retires.

Special Poojas and Charges (Approximate for 2026)

Please note: Minor price adjustments may occur at the Devaswom counter.

Major Offerings (Vazhipadu)

- **Udayasthamana Pooja:** (Full day pooja from sunrise to sunset) - ₹50,000+ (Requires advance booking, often years in advance).
- **Chuttuvilakku:** (Lighting of the entire outer wall lamps) - ₹12,000 to ₹50,000 (Varies by festival season).
- **Ahassu:** (A full day's combination of prasadams) - ₹2,000.
- **Gho Pooja (Personal):** ₹250.

Prasadams and Archanas

- **Palpayasam (1 Litre):** ₹140.
- **Neypayasam (Ghee Pudding):** ₹200.
- **Butter Nivedyam (Venna):** ₹15.
- **Sahasranama Archana:** ₹5.
- **Purusha Sooktham:** ₹3.
- **Thulabharam:** ₹5 (Base fee; the cost of the material weighed—like sugar, bananas, or ghee—is extra).

Here is the structured table of poojas and their corresponding charges for the **Sri Parthasarathi Temple**, organized clearly for your records.

Daily Rituals and Special Poojas (Standard Charges)

Pooja / Offering Name	Description of Ritual	Current Charges (INR)
Archana (Ashtotharam)	Chanting the 108 names of the Lord	₹4
Sahasranama Archana	Chanting the 1000 names of the Lord	₹30
Bhagavad Gita Parayanam	Recitation of specific Gita chapters	₹150
Gho Pooja	Special worship of the cow at dawn	₹250
Palpayasam (1 Litre)	Milk pudding offering (Sweet)	₹140
Neypayasam	Ghee-based jaggery pudding	₹200
Triguna Payasam	A special rich triple-ingredient pudding	₹350
Udayasthamana Pooja	All-day rituals (Sunrise to Sunset)	₹50,000+
Chuttuvilakku	Lighting all lamps around the temple	₹15,000+
Thulabharam (Service)	Weight-based offering (excluding material)	₹25
Niramala	Full floral decoration of the sanctum	₹5,000 - ₹10,000

Important Notes for Your Archive: up

- **Booking:** For major offerings like *Udayasthamana Pooja*, it is recommended to contact the **Guruvayur Devaswom** office directly, as there is often a long waiting list.
- **Timings:** The counter for booking these rituals typically opens at **5:00 AM** and closes by **12:30 PM**, reopening again for the evening session at **4:30 PM**.
- **Payment:** Most counters now accept digital payments (UPI), but carrying cash is advisable for smaller archanas.

***

Historical Timeline and Additional Information

The **Sri Parthasarathi Temple** holds a unique place in the history of Guruvayur, characterized by periods of ancient glory, tragic decline, and a remarkable modern resurrection.

- **Ancient Origins (c. 8th Century):** According to local tradition, the temple is believed to be over 1,200 years old. Legend says the idol was recovered from the River Ganges by **Adi Sankaracharya** during his travels. Recognizing the sanctity of the site, he consecrated the idol here and established the initial ritualistic framework (*Acharams*) that the temple follows to this day.
- **Medieval Period and Decline:** For several centuries, the temple was under the administration of the *Naduvil Madom Swamiyar* and later the *Mallissery Mana*. However, during the late 18th century (specifically around **1789**), the temple suffered significant damage during regional invasions. Following these conflicts, the structure fell into disrepair and was eventually reclaimed by nature, fading into oblivion for nearly two centuries.
- **The Modern Resurrection (1971–1974):** The turning point in the temple's history occurred in **1971** when the dilapidated roof finally collapsed. While clearing the debris, local villagers and devotees unearthed the sacred idol of Lord Parthasarathi. This discovery sparked a massive community-led restoration project. The temple was reconstructed in its current "Chariot" architectural style and was formally re-consecrated in **October 1974**.
- ***Administrative Transition (1978): Following the restoration, the management of the temple was officially integrated into the* **Guruvayur Devaswom Board** under the *Guruvayur Devaswom Act of 1978*, ensuring its preservation and the systematic conduct of daily rituals.

Distinctive Features for Visitors:

- **Navagraha Shrine:** Unlike most traditional Kerala temples, the Parthasarathi Temple is a rare exception that houses a dedicated enclosure for the **Navagrahas** (nine planetary deities), making it a significant stop for those seeking astrological remedies.
- **The Chariot Procession:** On the auspicious day of **Guruvayur Ekadasi**, a spectacular ritual takes place where a beautifully decorated chariot carrying the idol

of Lord Krishna is taken in a grand procession from this temple to the main Sree Krishna Temple, symbolizing the Lord's journey to the battlefield.

- **Peaceful Atmosphere:** Because it is located about 1 km away from the main shrine's hustle and bustle, this temple is highly recommended for devotees who wish to sit in quiet meditation (*Dhyana*) or study the intricate murals depicting the *Geethopadesam*.

Conclusion

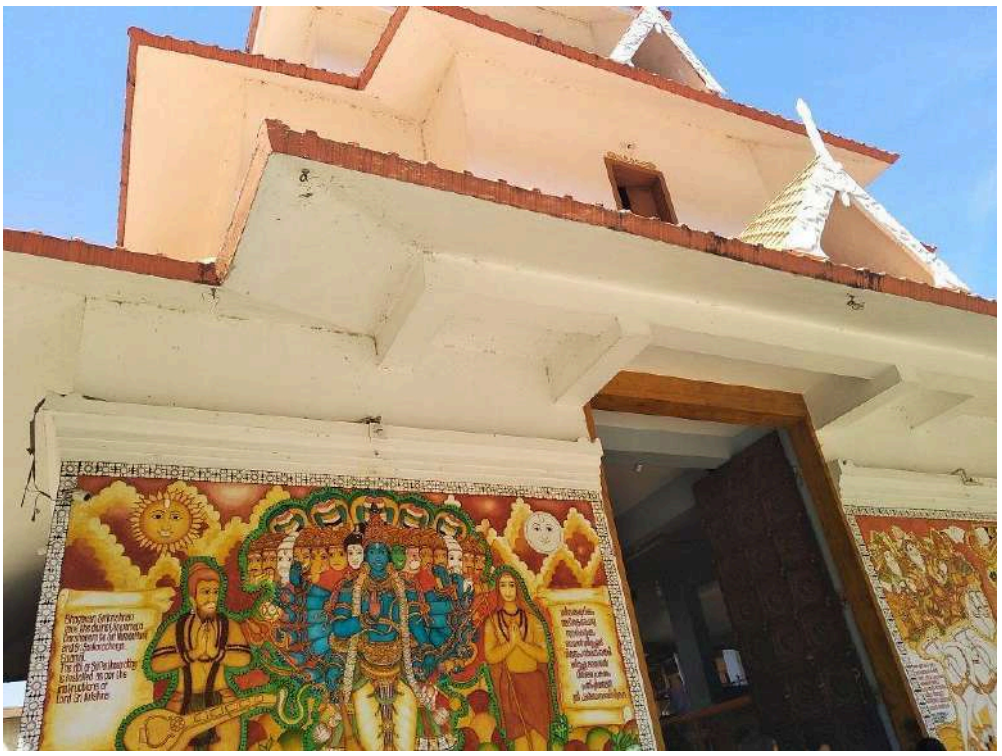
The Sri Parthasarathi Temple is more than just a secondary shrine in the shadow of a larger pilgrimage center; it is a repository of Kerala's resilient heritage. From its legendary revival in the 1970s to its role as the starting point for the grand Ekadasi processions, the temple preserves the intricate balance between Vedic tradition and artistic brilliance. For the researcher, it provides a rare glimpse into *Gajaprishta* architecture and mural art, while for the devotee, it remains a sanctuary of peace where the "Song of God" (*Bhagavad Gita*) still echoes in the silence of the sanctum.

References

1. **Guruvayur Devaswom Publications:** *Sree Krishna Temple Guide & Ritualistic Calendar*, 2024-2026 Editions.
2. **Kerala State Department of Archaeology:** *Monograph on Gajaprishta Temple Architecture in Central Kerala*.
3. **Local Heritage Archives:** *Documentation of the 1971 Reconstruction Project of Parthasarathi Kshethram*.
4. **Historical Gazette of Thrissur:** *Ancient Shrines and Medieval Conflicts in the Malabar Region*.
5. **Vastu Vidya Gurukulam:** *Technical Analysis of Chariot-style Sree Kovil Designs*.

*****

Photos



Videos

Sri Parthasarathy Temple, Guruvayur (10 min):

https://youtu.be/-HXoW5zRKwE?si=WBSQU1jEy7G9c_Yx

Sri Parthasarathy Temple, Guruvayur (3 min):

https://youtu.be/EEjcLaL-7JQ?si=IZutSUdKKCZbUeA9

Sri Parthasarathy Temple, Guruvayur (0.5 min):

https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1CcMCX8PpS/

Sri Parthasarathy Temple, Guruvayur (1 min):

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/14ZsSZrG1h1/

***

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

March 29, 2026

*****